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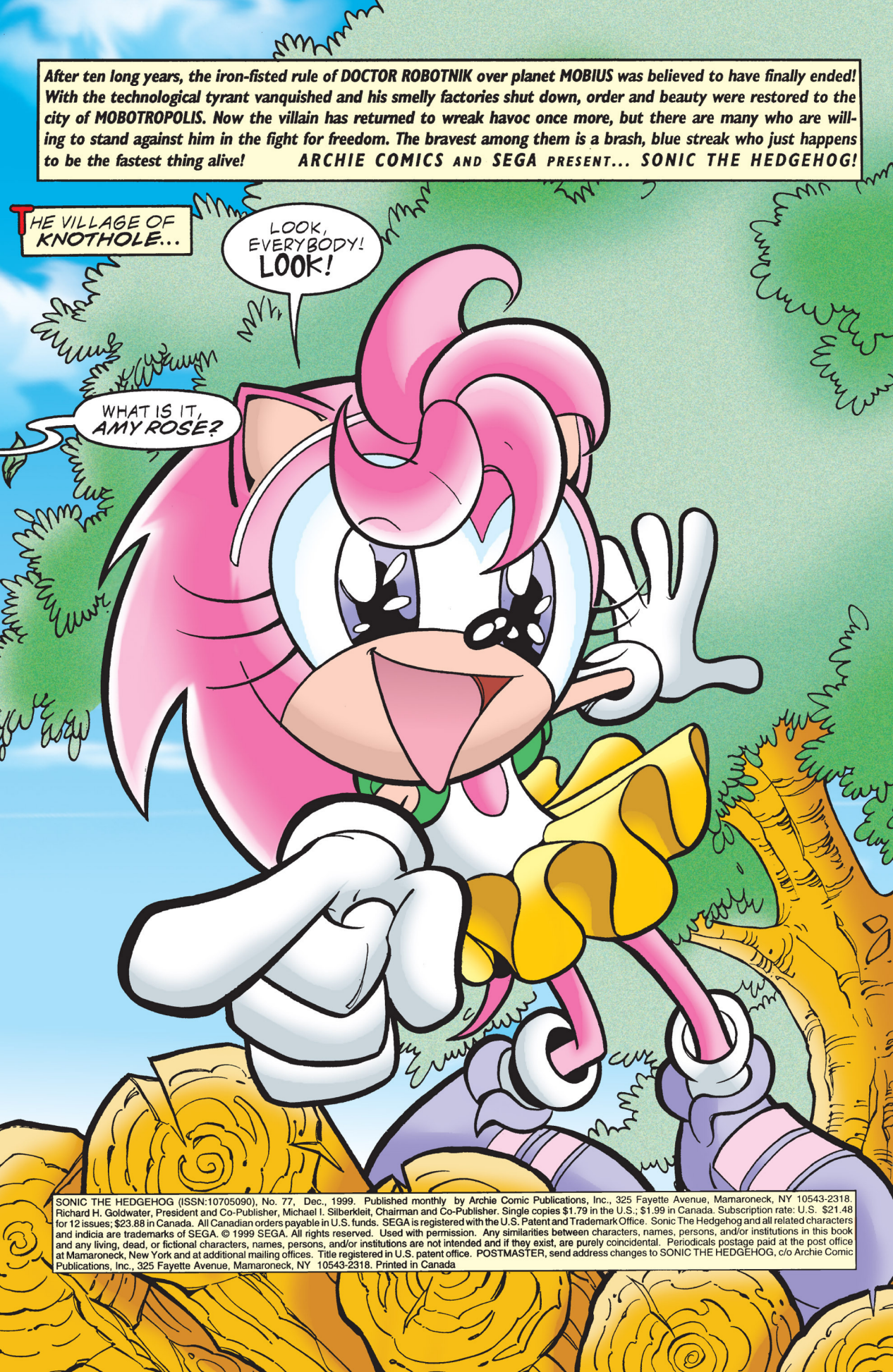
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG™
Homecoming

After ten long years, the iron-fisted rule of DOCTOR ROBOTNIK over planet MOBIUS was believed to have finally ended! With the technological tyrant vanquished and his smelly factories shut down, order and beauty were restored to the city of MOBOTROPOLIS. Now the villain has returned to wreak havoc once more, but there are many who are willing to stand against him in the fight for freedom. The bravest among them is a brash, blue streak who just happens to be the fastest thing alive! ***ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!***



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REBEL WITHOUT A PAUSE

Chapter One

KARL BOLLERS — WRITER
FRY — PENCILER
ANDREW PEPOY — INKER
JEFF POWELL — LETTERER
FRANK GAGLIARDO — COLORIST
J.F. GABRIE — EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR
VICTOR GORELICK — MANAGING EDITOR
RICHARD GOLDWATER — EDITOR IN CHIEF

NEVER MIND, CHILD--I SEE IT FOR MYSELF, BUT I CAN SCARCELY BELIEVE IT!

EMERGING FROM THE GREAT OAK SLIDE--IT'S BUNNIE RABBOT, YOUNG MILES PROWER AND ANTOINE D'COOLETTE!

YES, FATHER, THEY'VE RETURNED SAFELY! THEY SOMEHOW ESCAPED DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S SPACE PLATFORM!*

BUT LOOK, PRINCE ELIAS --THEY'VE ALSO BROUGHT SONIC'S PARENTS--AND WHO'S THAT WITH THEM?

YEEE-HA!

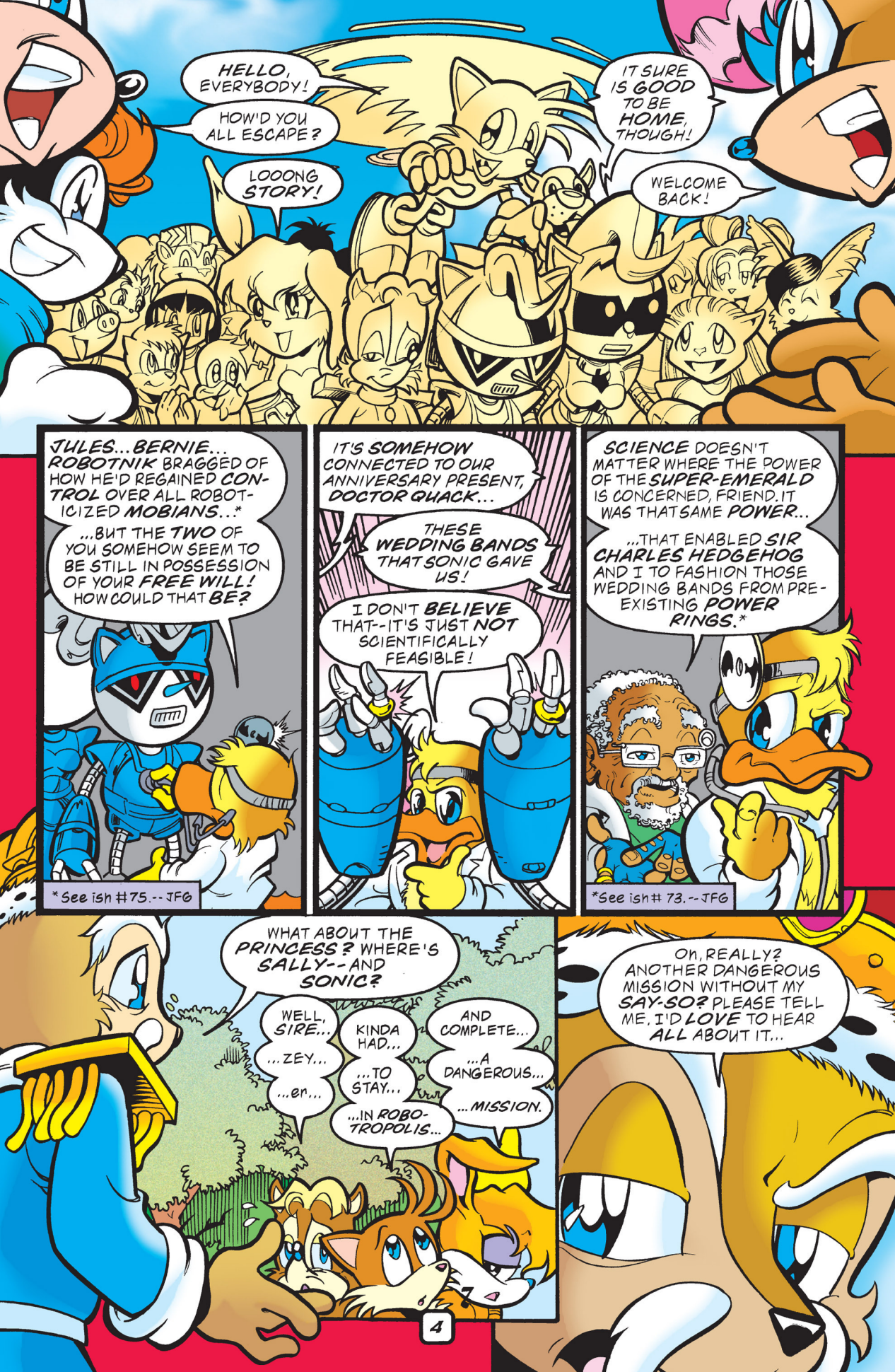
* They were held prisoner there in SONIC #75.--JFG.

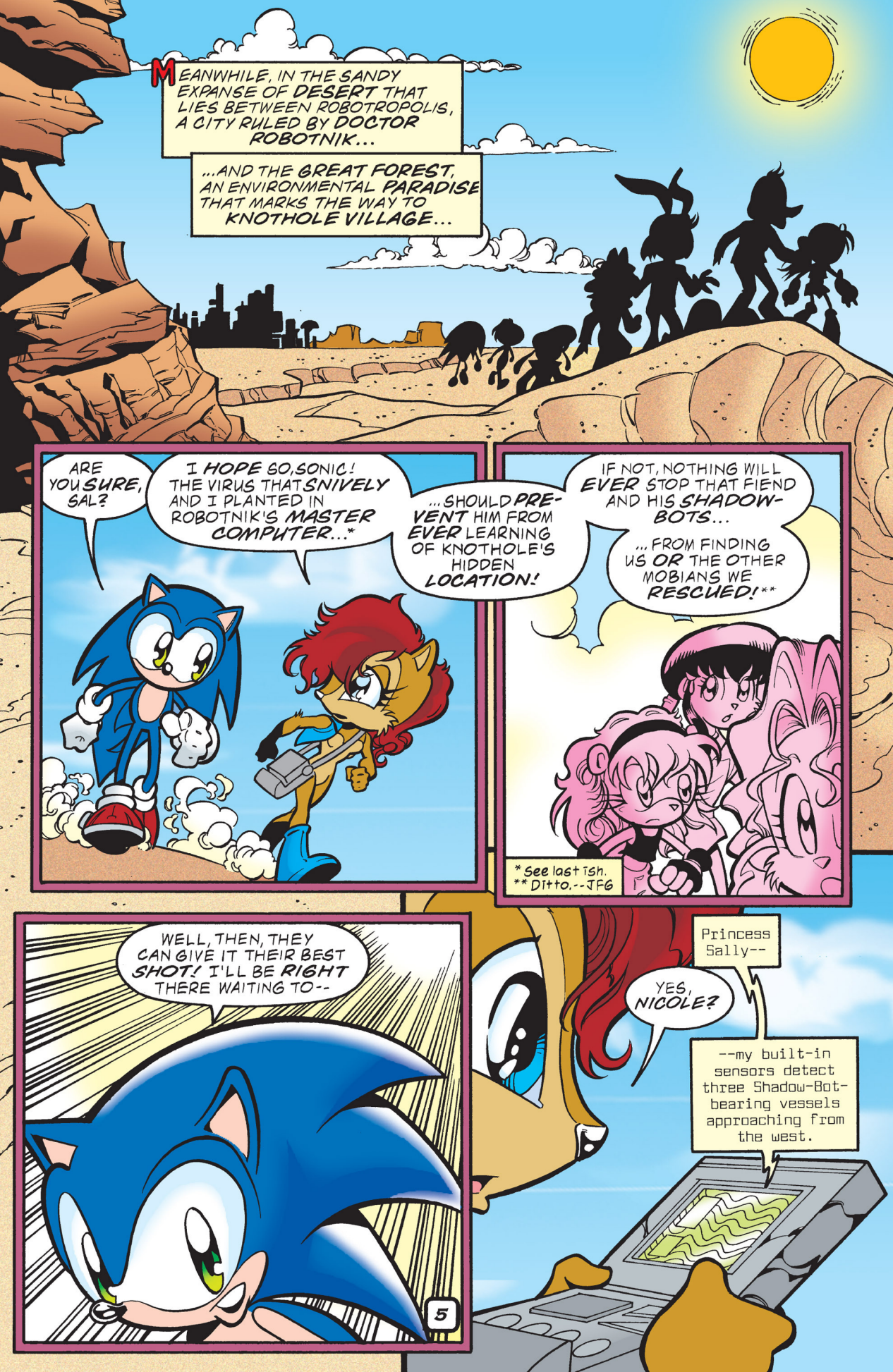
2

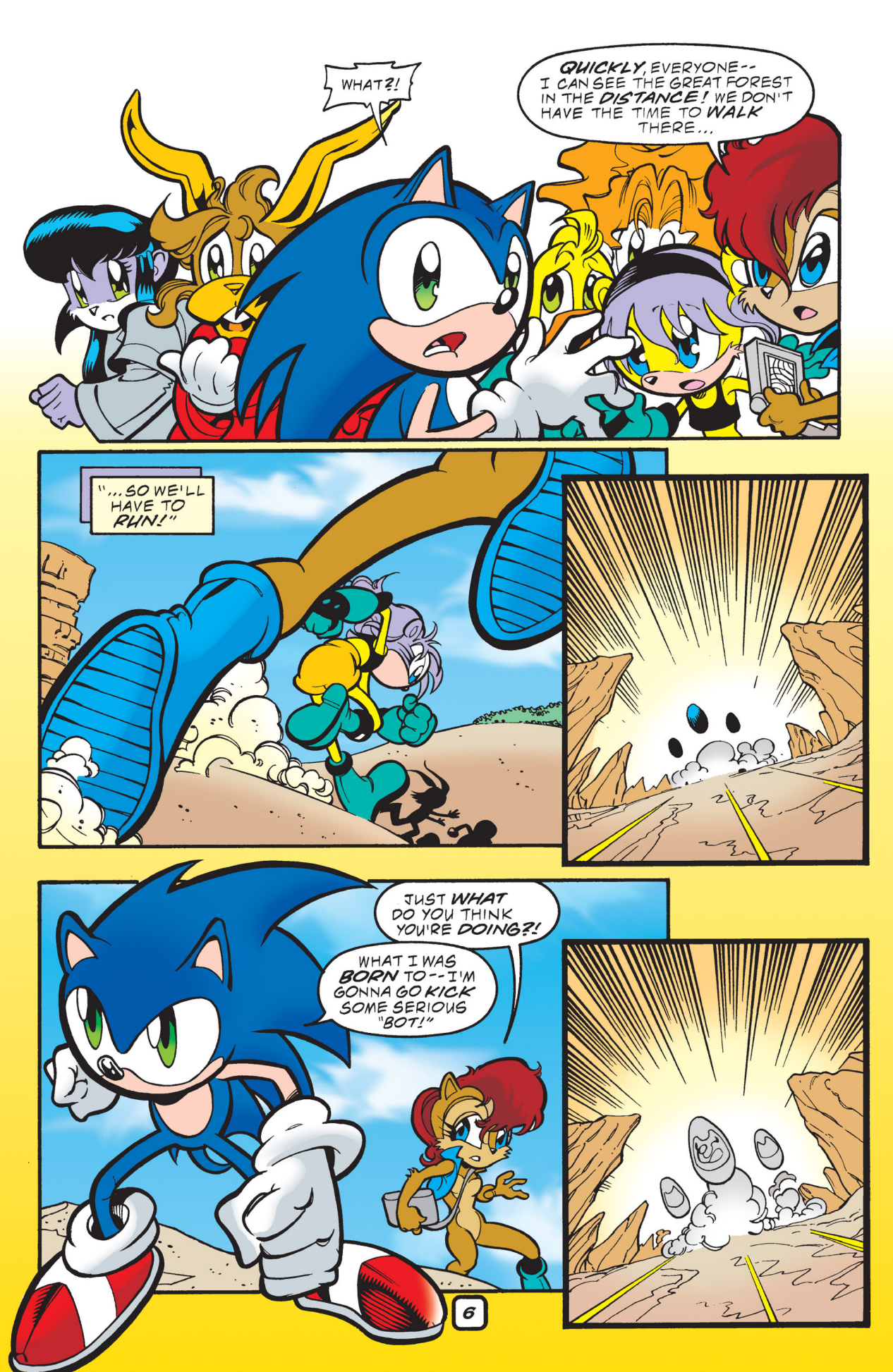
EEP!

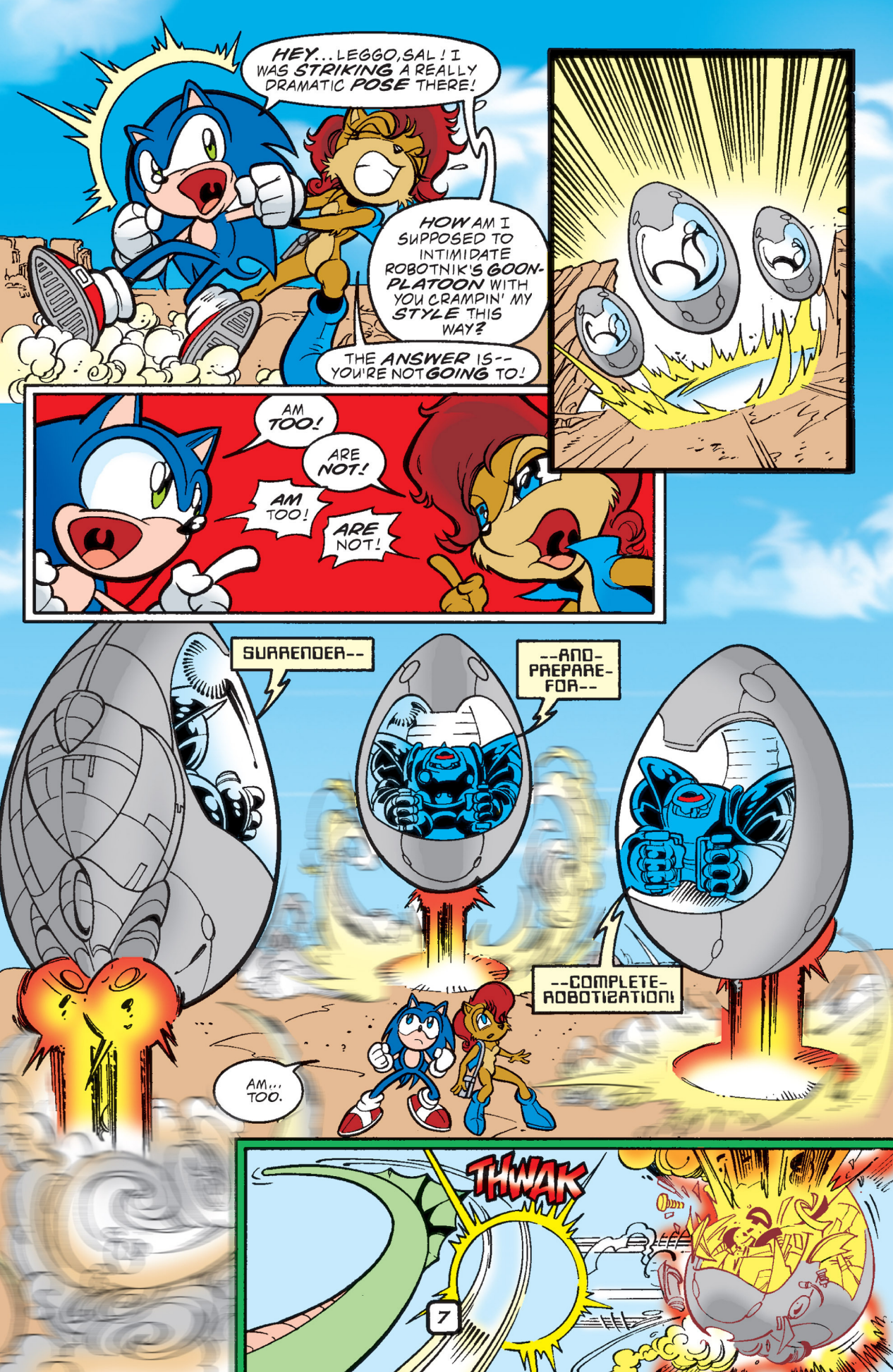
THIS IS JERAMIAH, HE IS THE GRANDSON OF THE GREAT STORYTELLER, KIRBY!

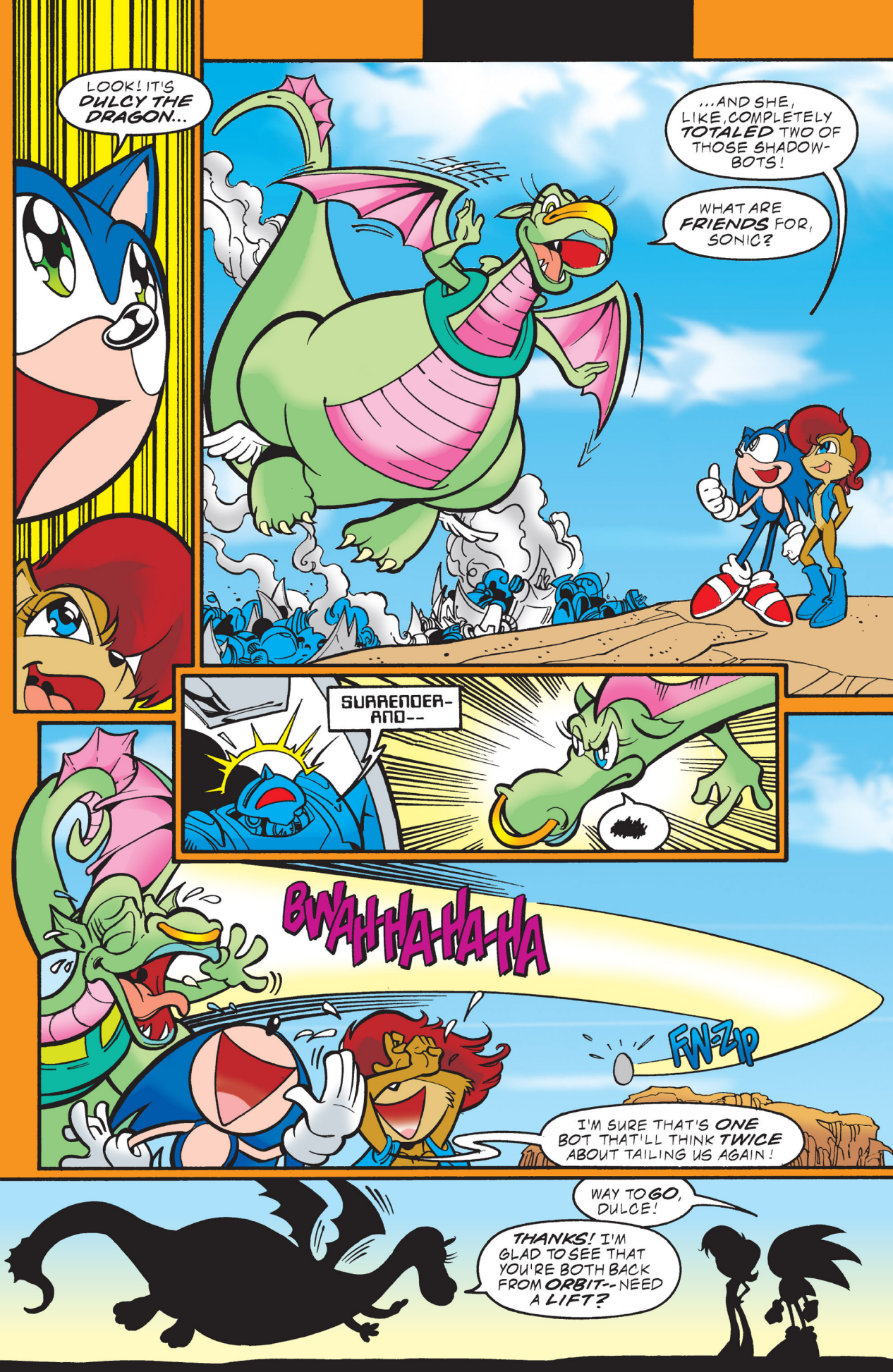
3


HELLO, EVERYBODY!
HOW'D YOU ALL ESCAPE?
LOOONG STORY!
IT SURE IS GOOD TO BE HOME, THOUGH!
WELCOME BACK!
JULES... BERNIE... ROBOTNIK BRAGGED OF HOW HE'D REGAINED CONTROL OVER ALL ROBOTICIZED MOBIANS...*
...BUT THE TWO OF YOU SOMEHOW SEEM TO BE STILL IN POSSESSION OF YOUR FREE WILL! HOW COULD THAT BE?
*See ish #75.--JFG
IT'S SOMEHOW CONNECTED TO OUR ANNIVERSARY PRESENT, DOCTOR QUACK...
THESE WEDDING BANDS THAT SONIC GAVE US!
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT--IT'S JUST NOT SCIENTIFICALLY FEASIBLE!
SCIENCE DOESN'T MATTER WHERE THE POWER OF THE SUPER-EMERALD IS CONCERNED, FRIEND. IT WAS THAT SAME POWER...
...THAT ENABLED SIR CHARLES HEDGEHOG AND I TO FASHION THOSE WEDDING BANDS FROM PRE-EXISTING POWER RINGS.*
*See ish #73.--JFG
WHAT ABOUT THE PRINCESS? WHERE'S SALLY--AND SONIC?
WELL, SIRE...
...ZEY...
...er...
KINDA HAD...
...TO STAY...
...IN ROBOTROPOLIS...
AND COMPLETE...
...A DANGEROUS...
...MISSION.
Oh, REALLY? ANOTHER DANGEROUS MISSION WITHOUT MY SAY-SO? PLEASE TELL ME, I'D LOVE TO HEAR ALL ABOUT IT...

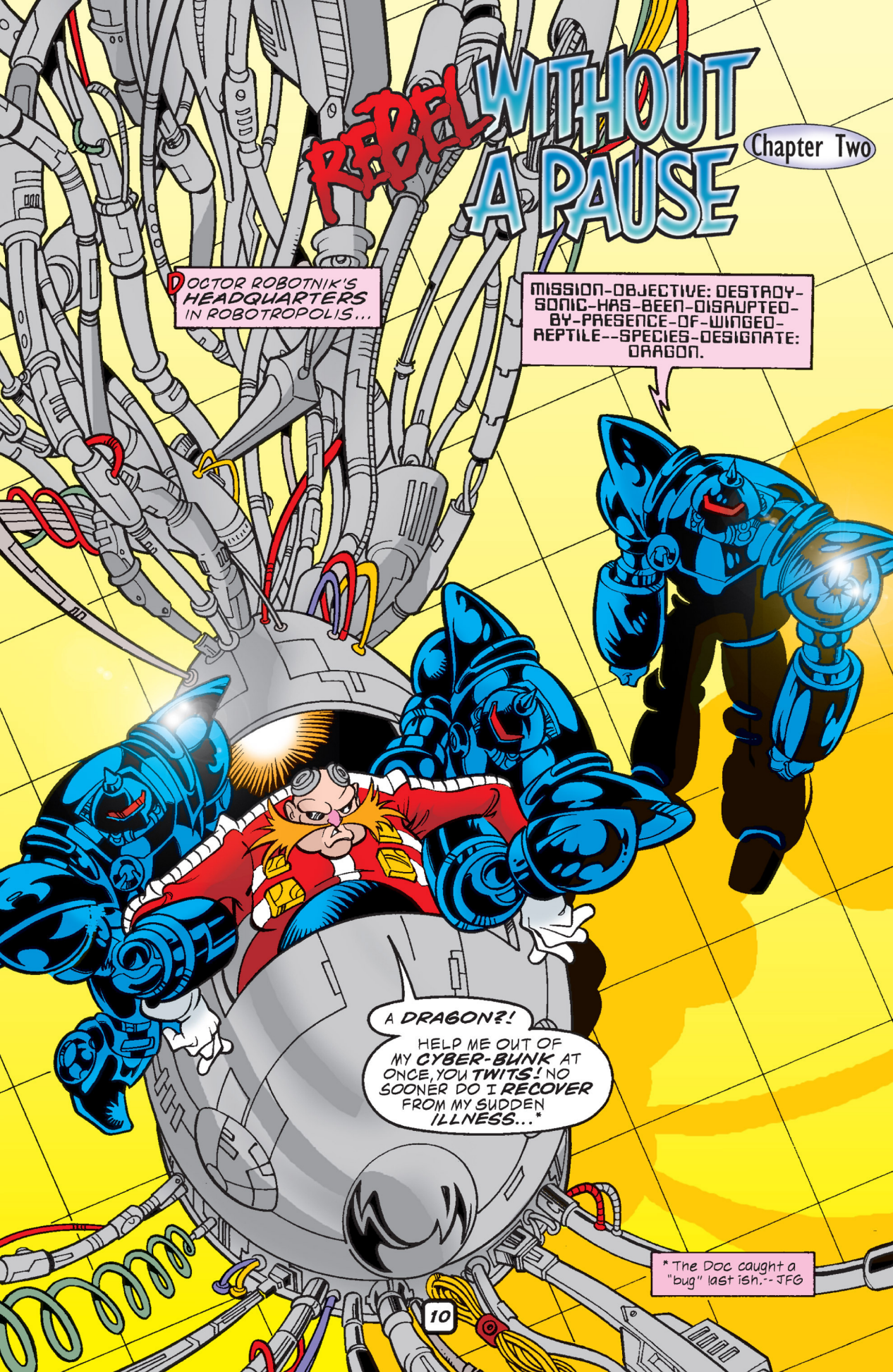

MEANWHILE, IN THE SANDY EXPANSE OF DESERT THAT LIES BETWEEN ROBOTROPOLIS, A CITY RULED BY DOCTOR ROBOTNIK...
...AND THE GREAT FOREST, AN ENVIRONMENTAL PARADISE THAT MARKS THE WAY TO KNOTHOLE VILLAGE...
ARE YOU SURE, SAL?
I HOPE SO, SONIC! THE VIRUS THAT SNIVELY AND I PLANTED IN ROBOTNIK'S MASTER COMPUTER...*
...SHOULD PREVENT HIM FROM EVER LEARNING OF KNOTHOLE'S HIDDEN LOCATION!
IF NOT, NOTHING WILL EVER STOP THAT FIEND AND HIS SHADOW-BOTS...
...FROM FINDING US OR THE OTHER MOBIANS WE RESCUED!**
* See last ish.
** Ditto.--JFG
WELL, THEN, THEY CAN GIVE IT THEIR BEST SHOT! I'LL BE RIGHT THERE WAITING TO--
Princess Sally--
YES, NICOLE?
--my built-in sensors detect three Shadow-Bot-bearing vessels approaching from the west.
5

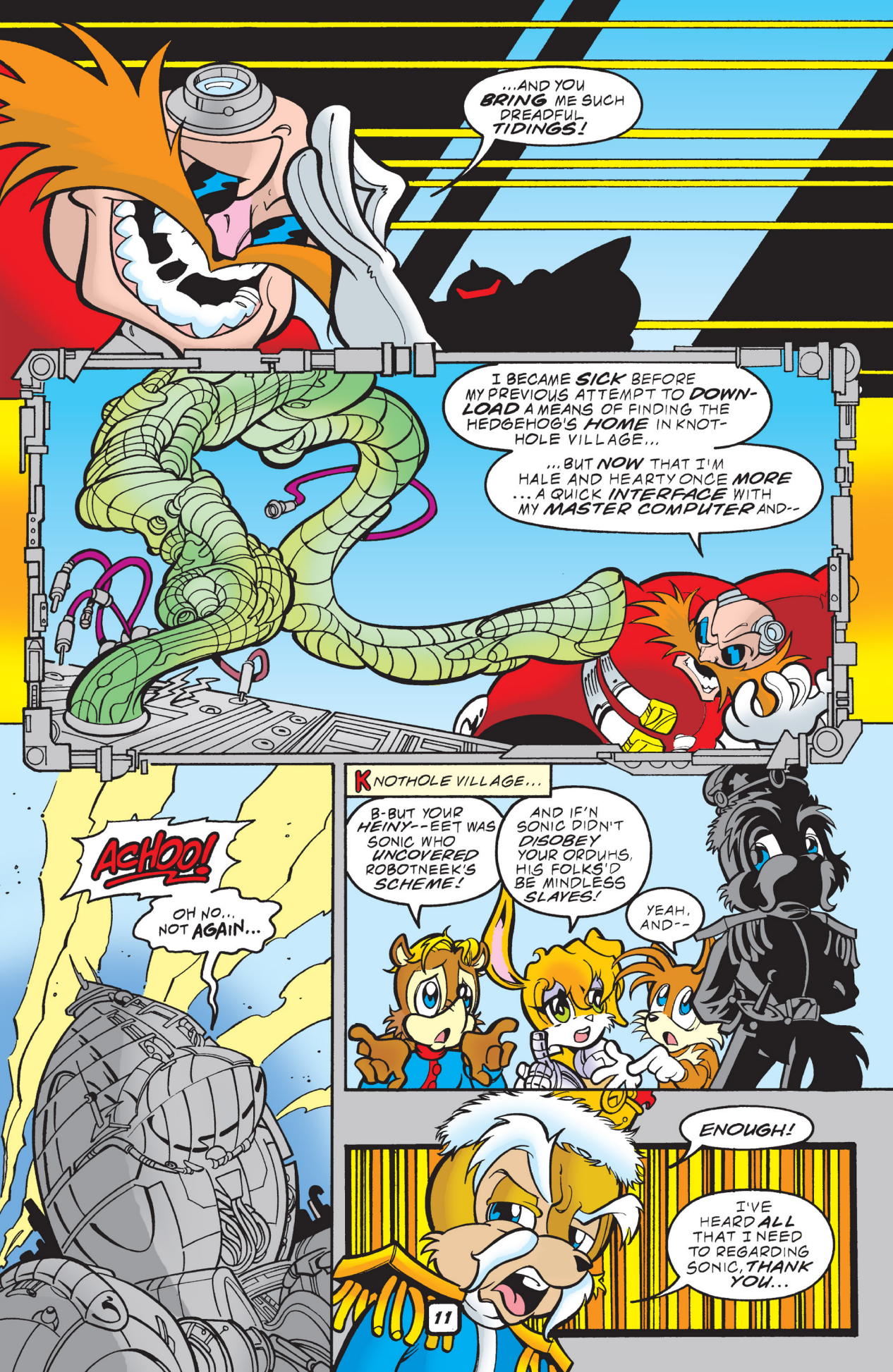

WHAT?!
QUICKLY, EVERYONE-- I CAN SEE THE GREAT FOREST IN THE DISTANCE! WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO WALK THERE...
"...SO WE'LL HAVE TO RUN!"
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
WHAT I WAS BORN TO-- I'M GONNA GO KICK SOME SERIOUS "BOT!"


HEY... LEGGO, SAL! I WAS STRIKING A REALLY DRAMATIC POSE THERE!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO INTIMIDATE ROBOTNIK'S GOON-PLATOON WITH YOU CRAMPIN' MY STYLE THIS WAY?
THE ANSWER IS-- YOU'RE NOT GOING TO!
AM TOO!
ARE NOT!
AM TOO!
ARE NOT!
SURRENDER--
--AND-- PREPARE-- FOR--
--COMPLETE-- ROBOTIZATION!
AM... TOO.
THWAK
7

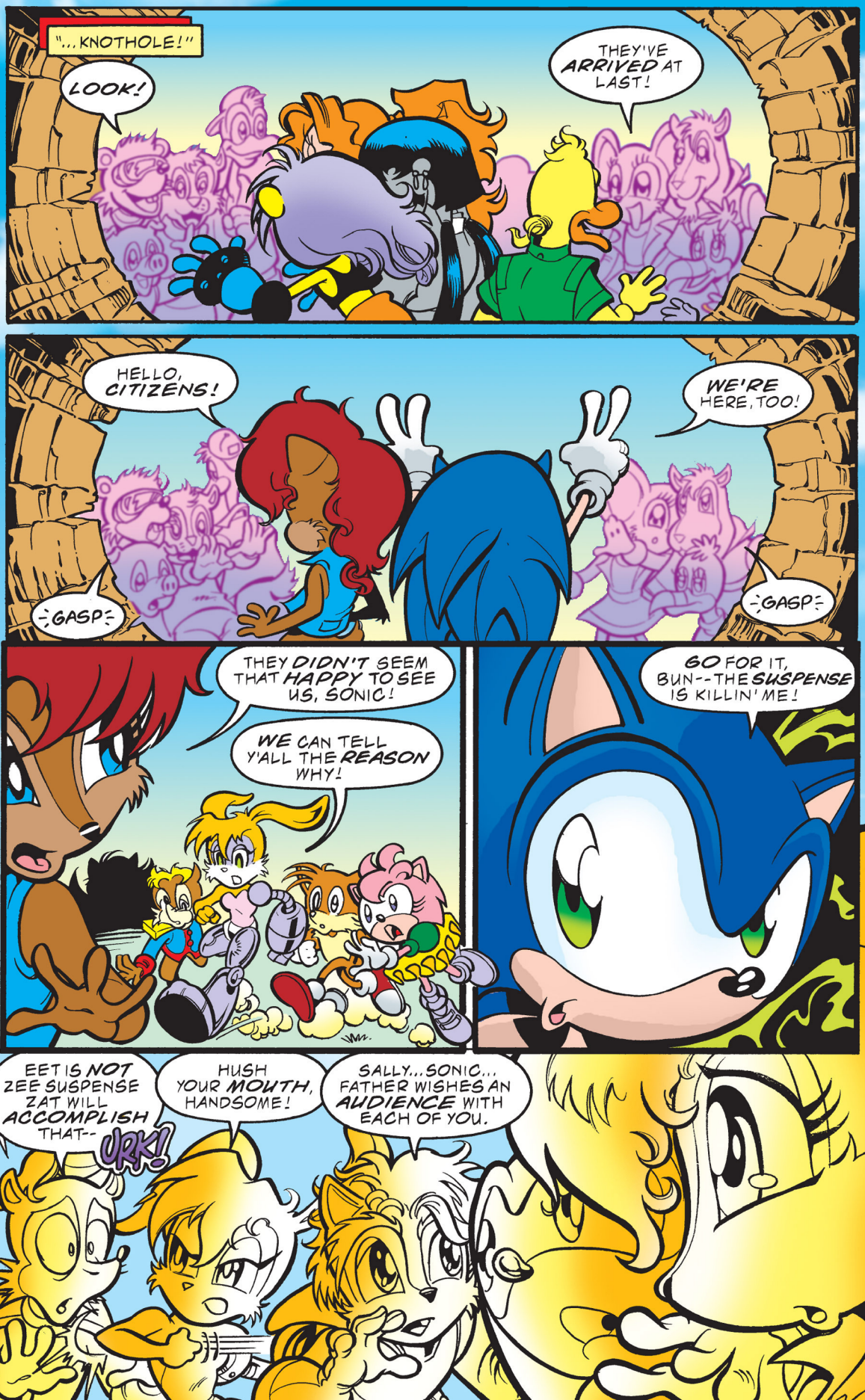

LOOK! IT'S DULCY THE DRAGON...
...AND SHE, LIKE, COMPLETELY TOTALED TWO OF THOSE SHADOW-BOTS!
WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR, SONIC?
SURRENDER- AND--
BWAH-HA-HA-HA
FWZIP
I'M SURE THAT'S ONE BOT THAT'LL THINK TWICE ABOUT TAILING US AGAIN!
WAY TO GO, DULCE!
THANKS! I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT YOU'RE BOTH BACK FROM ORBIT--NEED A LIFT?

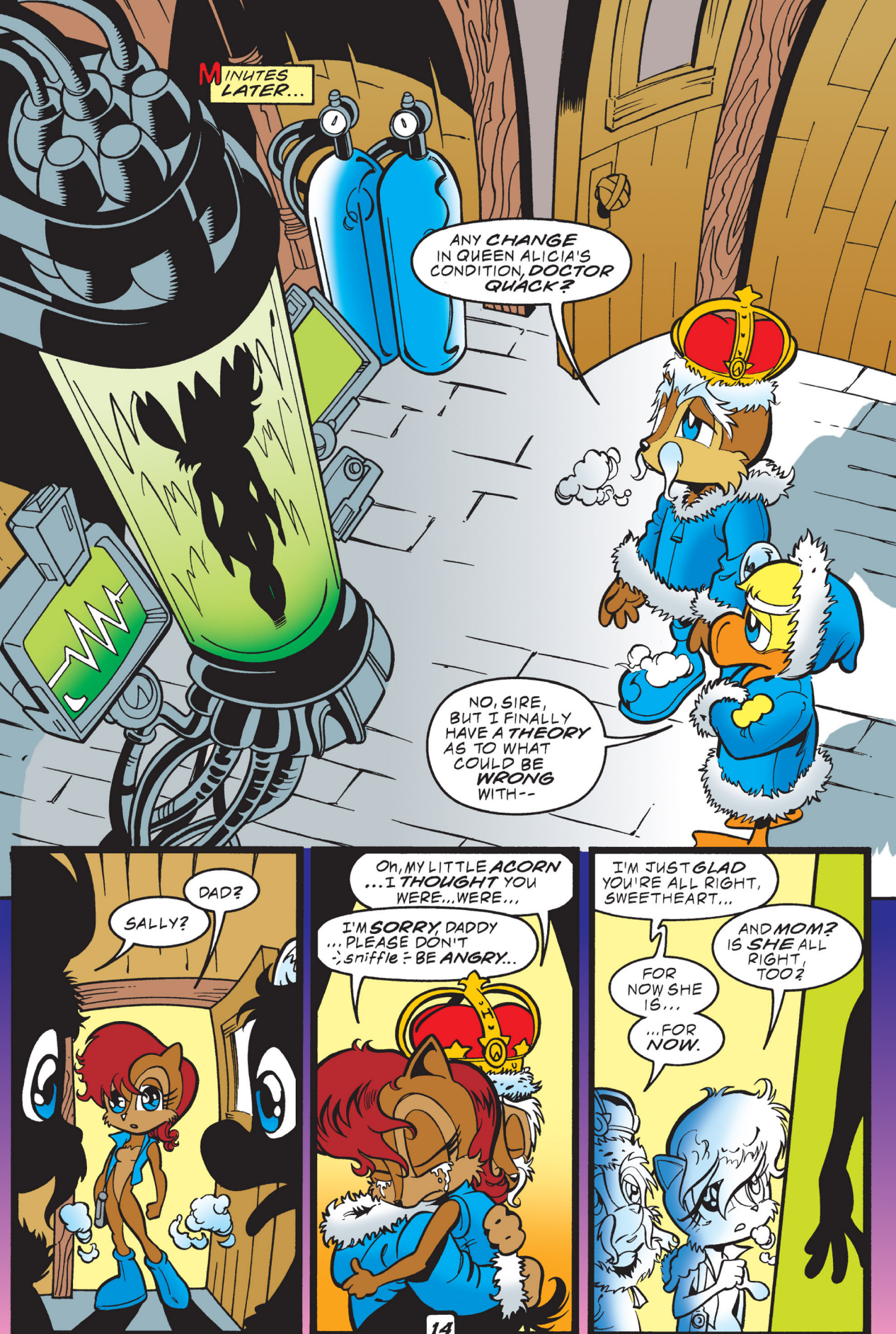
INTERLUDE ONE.
JUST BEYOND THE RIM OF THE GALAXY, THERE IS A BURST OF BLINDING ENERGY...
...AND TWIN VESSELS EMERGE FROM THE MYSTERIOUS FOLDS OF HYPER-SPACE.
WHENCE DID THESE SPACECRAFTS JOURNEY?
WHAT COURSE HAS BEEN PLOTTED ACROSS THIS VAST STAR SYSTEM?
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY... WHY?

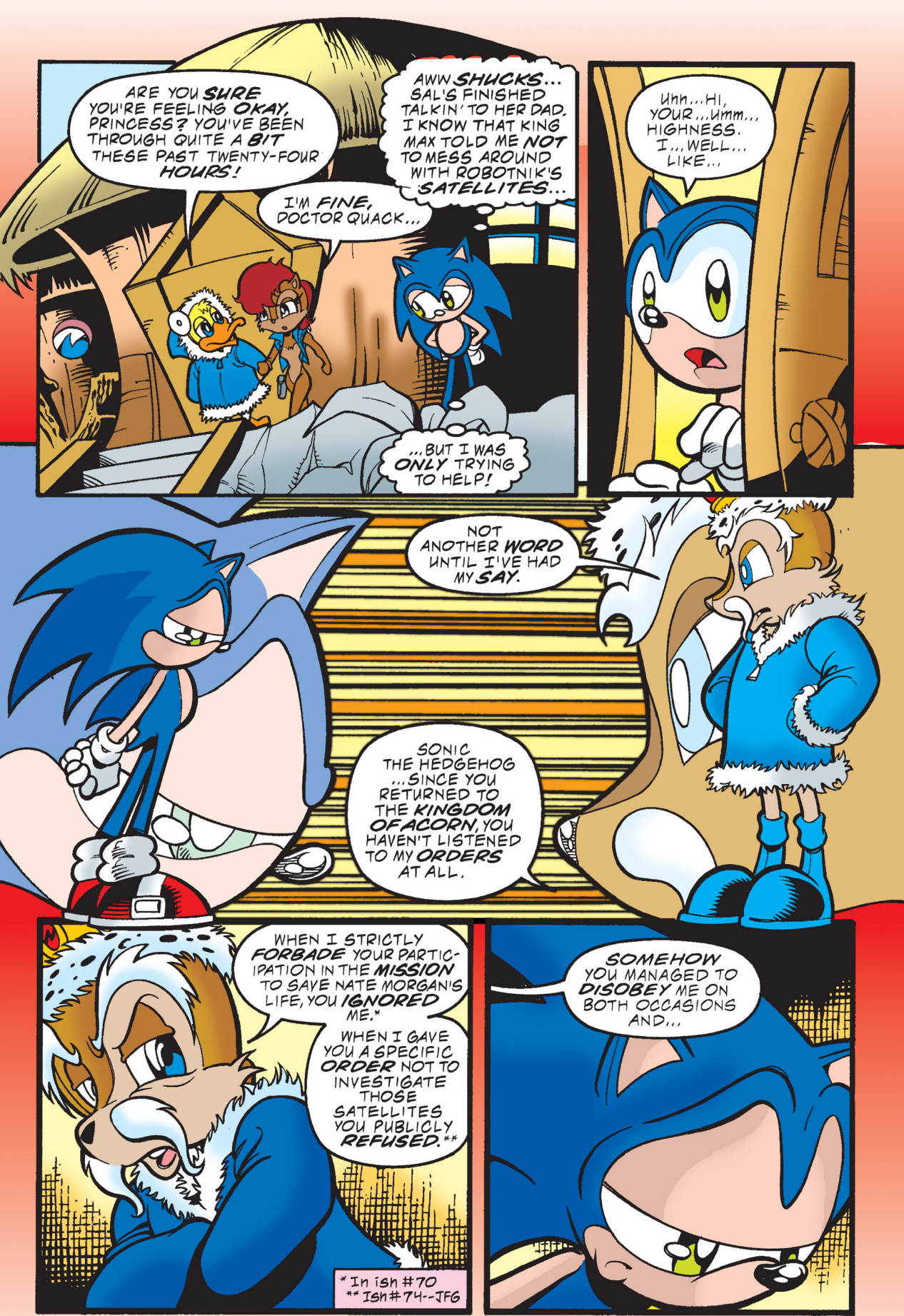

REBEL WITHOUT A PAUSE
Chapter Two
DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S HEADQUARTERS IN ROBOTROPOLIS...
MISSION-OBJECTIVE: DESTROY-SONIC-HAS-BEEN-DISRUPTED-BY-PRESENCE-OF-WINGED-REPTILE--SPECIES-DESIGNATE: DRAGON.
A DRAGON?!
HELP ME OUT OF MY CYBER-BUNK AT ONCE, YOU TWITS! NO SOONER DO I RECOVER FROM MY SUDDEN ILLNESS...*
* The Doc caught a "bug" last ish.--JFG
10

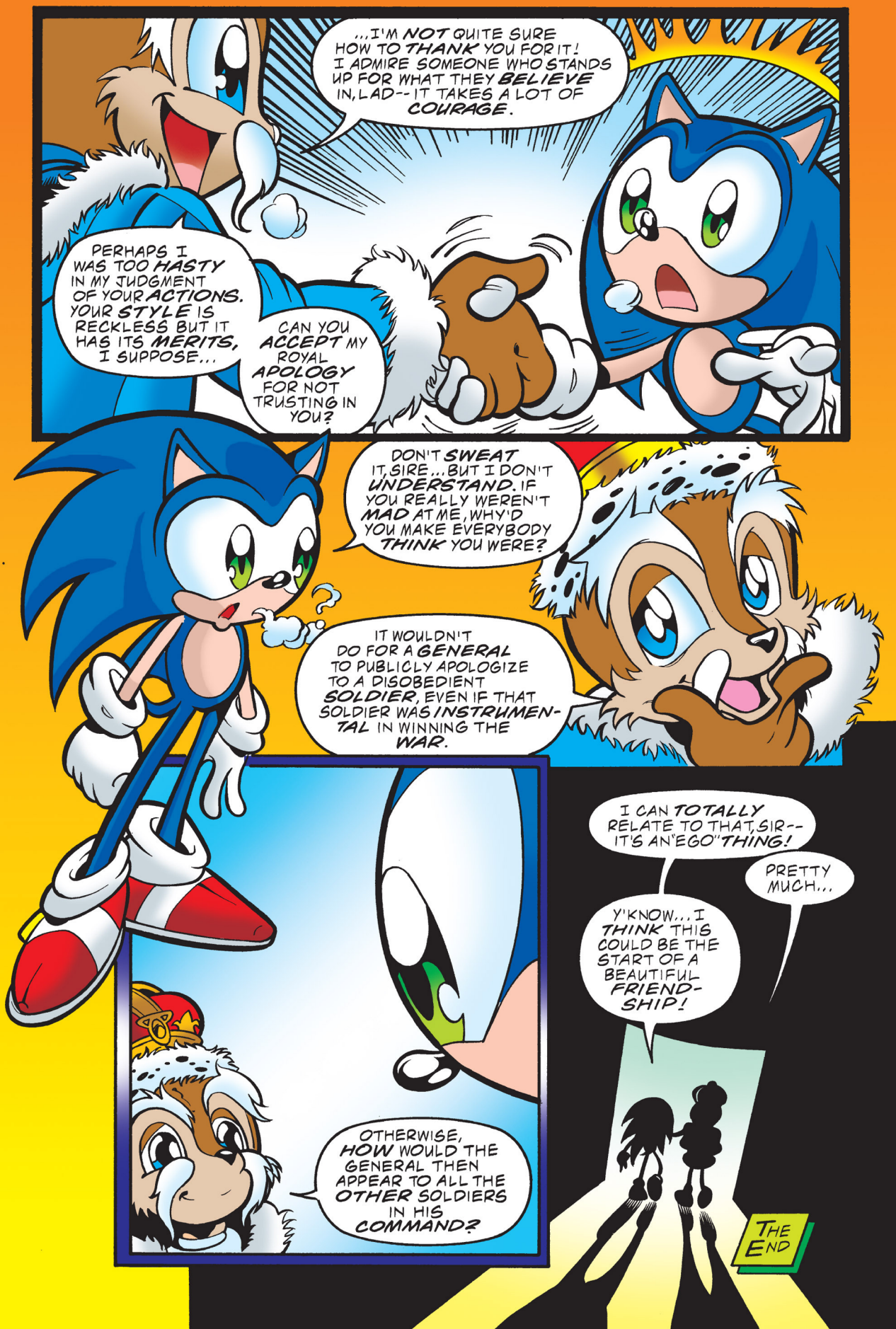

...AND YOU BRING ME SUCH DREADFUL TIDINGS!
I BECAME SICK BEFORE MY PREVIOUS ATTEMPT TO DOWN-LOAD A MEANS OF FINDING THE HEDGEHOG'S HOME IN KNOT-HOLE VILLAGE...
...BUT NOW THAT I'M HALE AND HEARTY ONCE MORE ...A QUICK INTERFACE WITH MY MASTER COMPUTER AND--
KNOTHOLE VILLAGE...
B-BUT YOUR HEINY--EET WAS SONIC WHO UNCOVERED ROBOTNEEK'S SCHEME!
AND IF'N SONIC DIDN'T DISOBEY YOUR ORDUHS, HIS FOLKS'D BE MINDLESS SLAVES!
YEAH, AND--
ACHOO!
OH NO... NOT AGAIN...
ENOUGH!
I'VE HEARD ALL THAT I NEED TO REGARDING SONIC, THANK YOU...

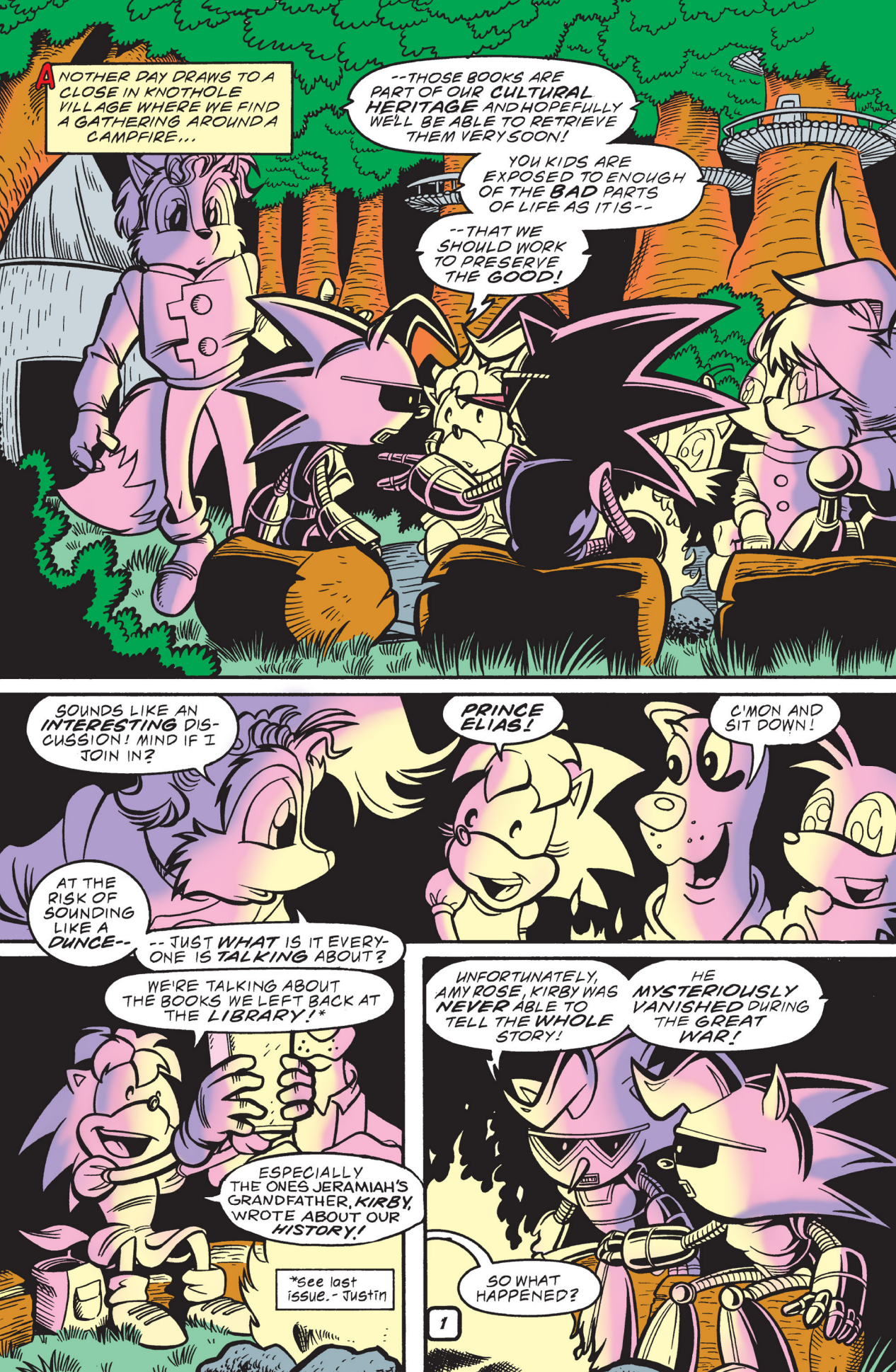
THE SKY ABOVE THE GREAT FOREST...
HOLD ON TIGHT, EVERY-ONE--I'M ABOUT TO TOUCH DOWN!
I'VE ALWAYS HAD A ROUGH TIME WITH MY LANDINGS, BUT I'VE GOT TO TRY AND MAKE THIS ONE...
WAY TO GO, DULCE! I--
QUIET, SONIC--SHE'S NOT FINISHED YET, SO DON'T BREAK HER CONCEN-TRATION!
...PERFECT!
HERE YOU ARE...
...AND HERE I GO!
BYE, DULCY... AND THANKS!
ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY... THE GREAT OAK SLIDE AWAITS, AND SO DOES...

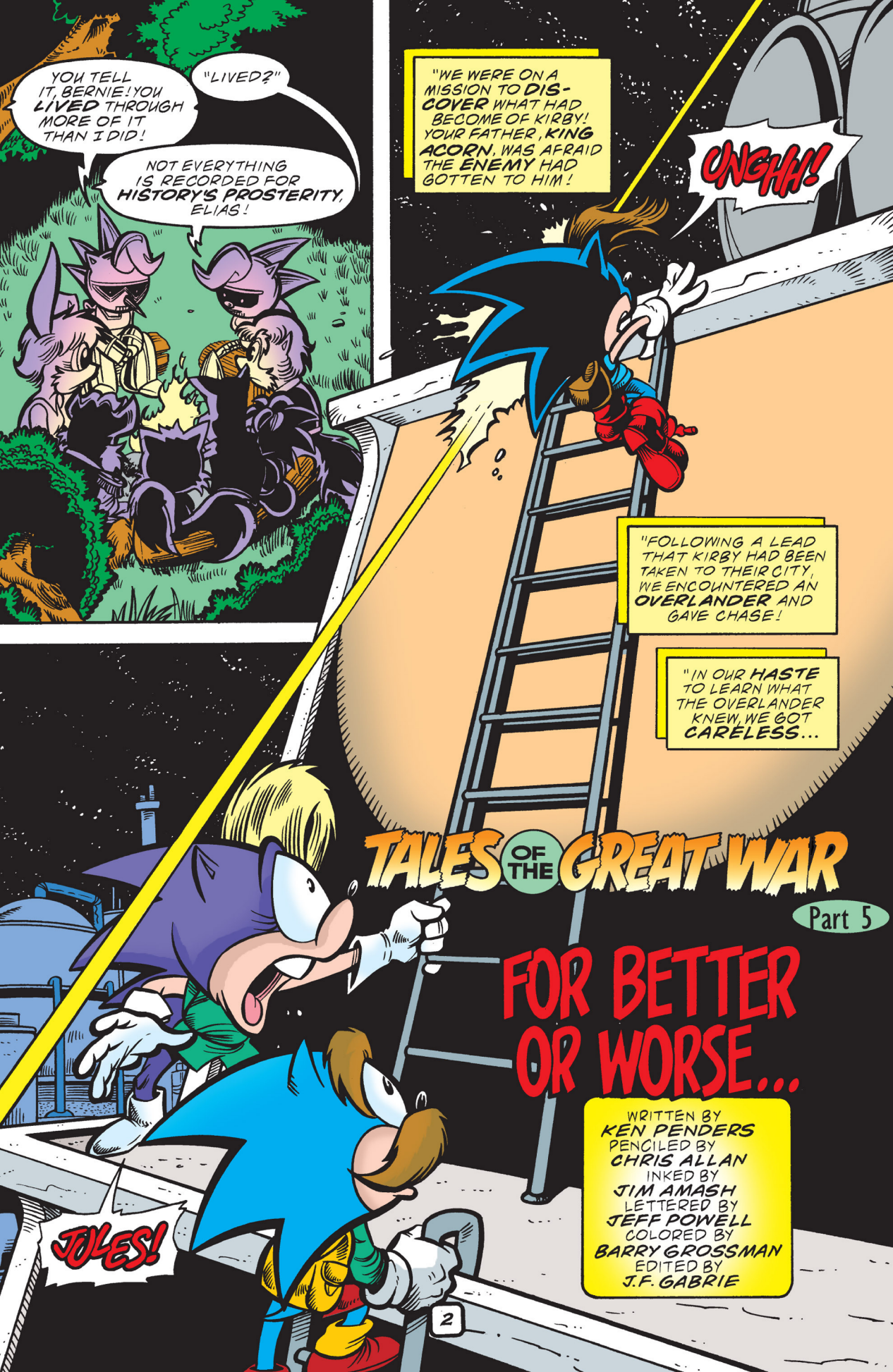

"...KNOTHOLE!"
LOOK!
THEY'VE ARRIVED AT LAST!
HELLO, CITIZENS!
WE'RE HERE, TOO!
:GASP:
:GASP:
THEY DIDN'T SEEM THAT HAPPY TO SEE US, SONIC!
WE CAN TELL Y'ALL THE REASON WHY!
GO FOR IT, BUN--THE SUSPENSE IS KILLIN' ME!
EET IS NOT ZEE SUSPENSE ZAT WILL ACCOMPLISH THAT--
URK!
HUSH YOUR MOUTH, HANDSOME!
SALLY...SONIC... FATHER WISHES AN AUDIENCE WITH EACH OF YOU.

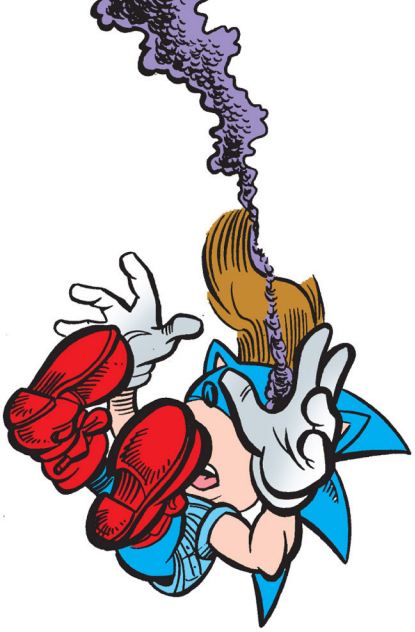

MINUTES LATER...
ANY CHANGE IN QUEEN ALICIA'S CONDITION, DOCTOR QUACK?
NO, SIRE, BUT I FINALLY HAVE A THEORY AS TO WHAT COULD BE WRONG WITH--
SALLY?
DAD?
Oh, MY LITTLE ACORN ...I THOUGHT YOU WERE...WERE...
I'M SORRY, DADDY ...PLEASE DON'T -sniffle- BE ANGRY...
I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, SWEETHEART...
AND MOM? IS SHE ALL RIGHT, TOO?
FOR NOW SHE IS...
...FOR NOW.

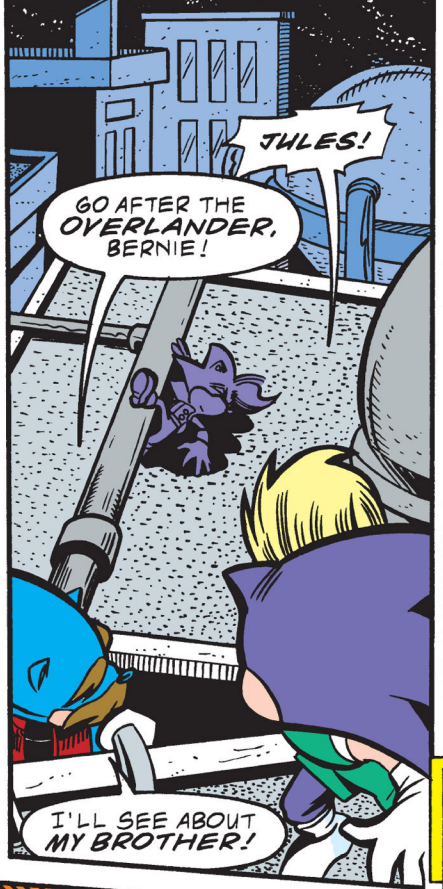

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE FEELING OKAY, PRINCESS? YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH QUITE A BIT THESE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS!
I'M FINE, DOCTOR QUACK...
AWW SHUCKS... SAL'S FINISHED TALKIN' TO HER DAD. I KNOW THAT KING MAX TOLD ME NOT TO MESS AROUND WITH ROBOTNIK'S SATELLITES...
...BUT I WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP!
Unn...Hi, YOUR...Umm... HIGHNESS. I...WELL... LIKE...
NOT ANOTHER WORD UNTIL I'VE HAD MY SAY.
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG ...SINCE YOU RETURNED TO THE KINGDOM OF ACORN, YOU HAVEN'T LISTENED TO MY ORDERS AT ALL.
WHEN I STRICTLY FORBADE YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE MISSION TO SAVE NATE MORGAN'S LIFE, YOU IGNORED ME.*
WHEN I GAVE YOU A SPECIFIC ORDER NOT TO INVESTIGATE THOSE SATELLITES YOU PUBLICLY REFUSED.**
SOMEHOW YOU MANAGED TO DISOBEY ME ON BOTH OCCASIONS AND...
* In ish #70
** Ish #74--JFG

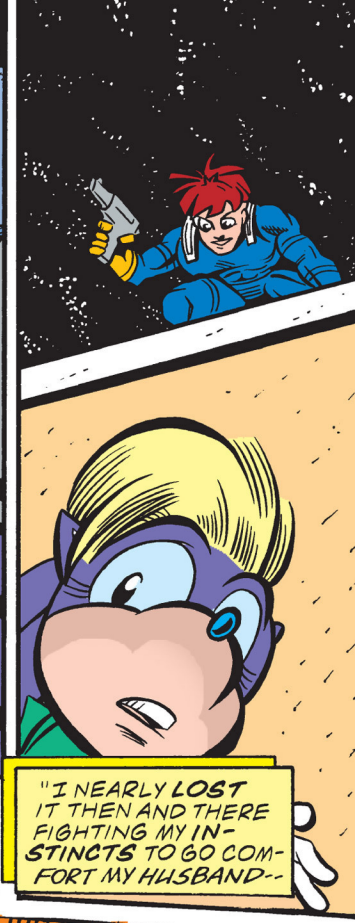

...I'M NOT QUITE SURE HOW TO THANK YOU FOR IT! I ADMIRE SOMEONE WHO STANDS UP FOR WHAT THEY BELIEVE IN, LAD--IT TAKES A LOT OF COURAGE.
PERHAPS I WAS TOO HASTY IN MY JUDGMENT OF YOUR ACTIONS. YOUR STYLE IS RECKLESS BUT IT HAS ITS MERITS, I SUPPOSE...
CAN YOU ACCEPT MY ROYAL APOLOGY FOR NOT TRUSTING IN YOU?
DON'T SWEAT IT, SIRE... BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND. IF YOU REALLY WEREN'T MAD AT ME, WHY'D YOU MAKE EVERYBODY THINK YOU WERE?
IT WOULDN'T DO FOR A GENERAL TO PUBLICLY APOLOGIZE TO A DISOBEDIENT SOLDIER, EVEN IF THAT SOLDIER WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN WINNING THE WAR.
OTHERWISE, HOW WOULD THE GENERAL THEN APPEAR TO ALL THE OTHER SOLDIERS IN HIS COMMAND?
I CAN TOTALLY RELATE TO THAT, SIR--IT'S AN "EGO" THING!
PRETTY MUCH...
Y'KNOW... I THINK THIS COULD BE THE START OF A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP!
THE END


ANOTHER DAY DRAWS TO A CLOSE IN KNOTHOLE VILLAGE WHERE WE FIND A GATHERING AROUND A CAMPFIRE...
--THOSE BOOKS ARE PART OF OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HOPEFULLY WE'LL BE ABLE TO RETRIEVE THEM VERY SOON!
YOU KIDS ARE EXPOSED TO ENOUGH OF THE BAD PARTS OF LIFE AS IT IS--
--THAT WE SHOULD WORK TO PRESERVE THE GOOD!
SOUNDS LIKE AN INTERESTING DISCUSSION! MIND IF I JOIN IN?
PRINCE ELIAS!
C'MON AND SIT DOWN!
AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING LIKE A DUNCE--
--JUST WHAT IS IT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT?
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE BOOKS WE LEFT BACK AT THE LIBRARY!*
ESPECIALLY THE ONES JERAMIAH'S GRANDFATHER, KIRBY, WROTE ABOUT OUR HISTORY!
*see last issue.- Justin
UNFORTUNATELY, AMY ROSE, KIRBY WAS NEVER ABLE TO TELL THE WHOLE STORY!
HE MYSTERIOUSLY VANISHED DURING THE GREAT WAR!
SO WHAT HAPPENED?
1

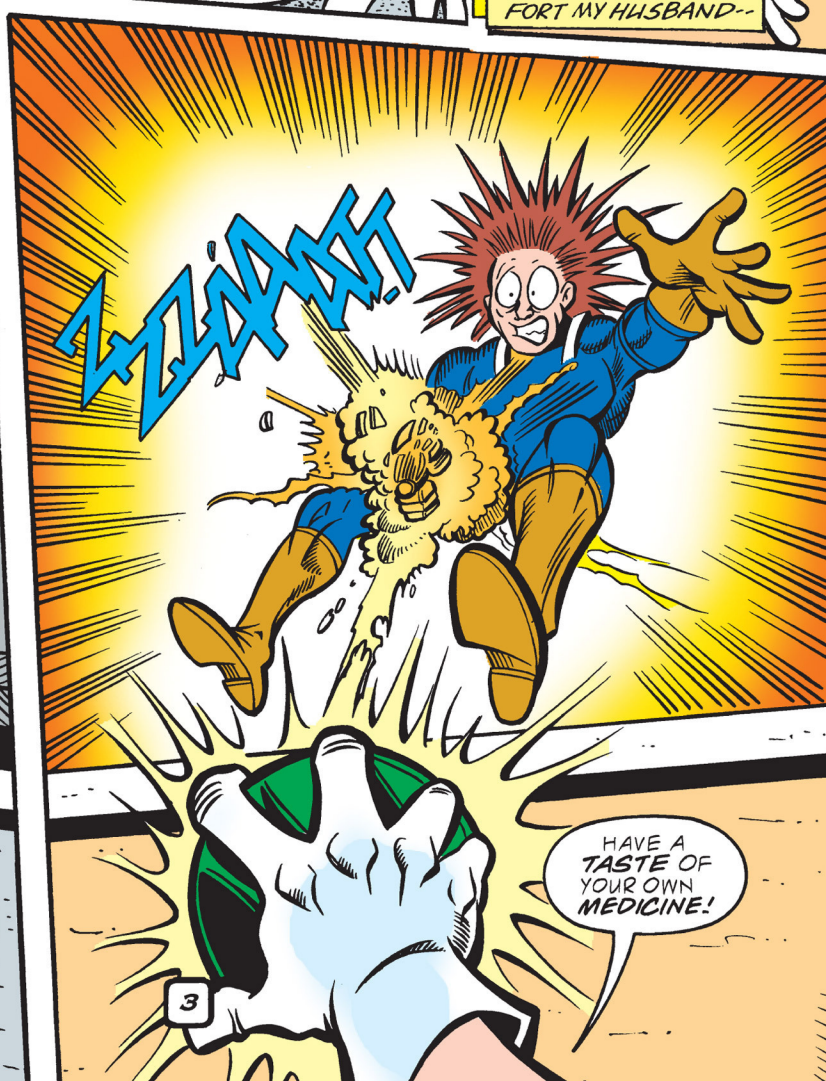

YOU TELL IT, BERNIE! YOU LIVED THROUGH MORE OF IT THAN I DID!
"LIVED?"
NOT EVERYTHING IS RECORDED FOR HISTORY'S PROSTERITY, ELIAS!
"WE WERE ON A MISSION TO DISCOVER WHAT HAD BECOME OF KIRBY! YOUR FATHER, KING ACORN, WAS AFRAID THE ENEMY HAD GOTTEN TO HIM!
UNGHH!
"FOLLOWING A LEAD THAT KIRBY HAD BEEN TAKEN TO THEIR CITY, WE ENCOUNTERED AN OVERLANDER AND GAVE CHASE!
"IN OUR HASTE TO LEARN WHAT THE OVERLANDER KNEW, WE GOT CARELESS...
TALES OF THE GREAT WAR
Part 5
FOR BETTER OR WORSE...
WRITTEN BY KEN PENDERS
PENCILED BY CHRIS ALLAN
INKED BY JIM AMASH
LETTERED BY JEFF POWELL
COLORED BY BARRY GROSSMAN
EDITED BY J.F. GABRIE
JULES!
2

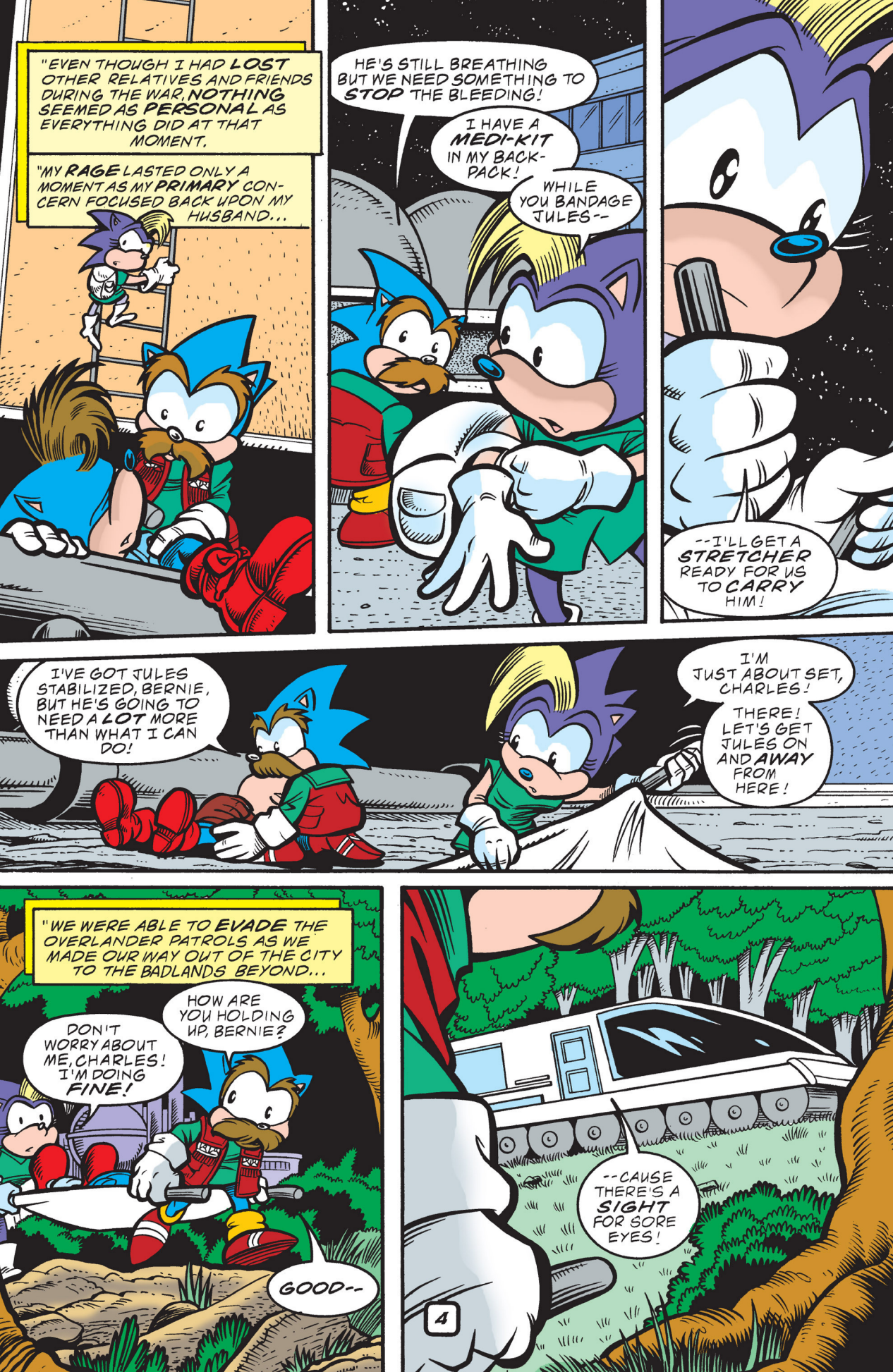


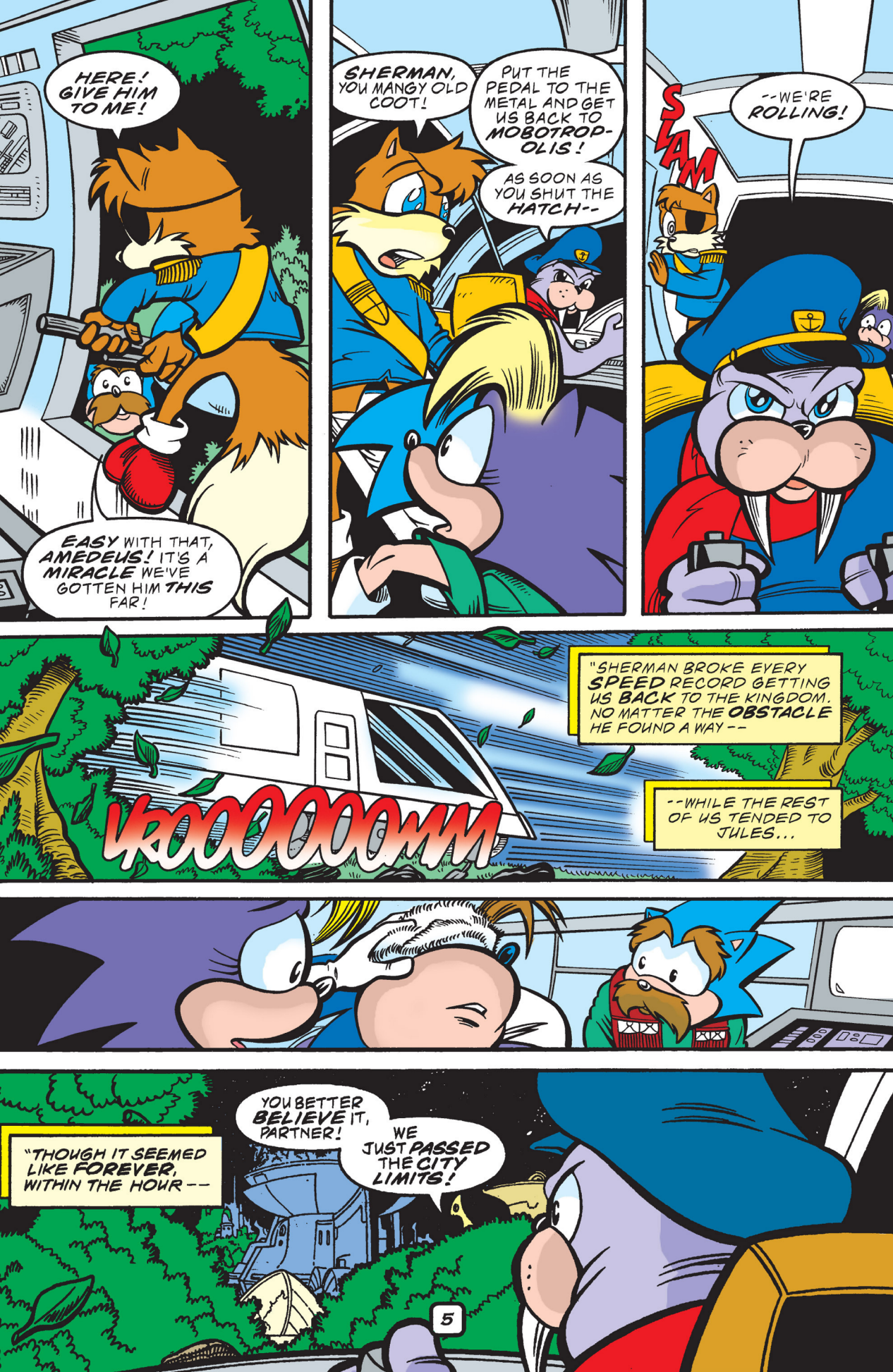

JULES!
GO AFTER THE OVERLANDER, BERNIE!
I'LL SEE ABOUT MY BROTHER!

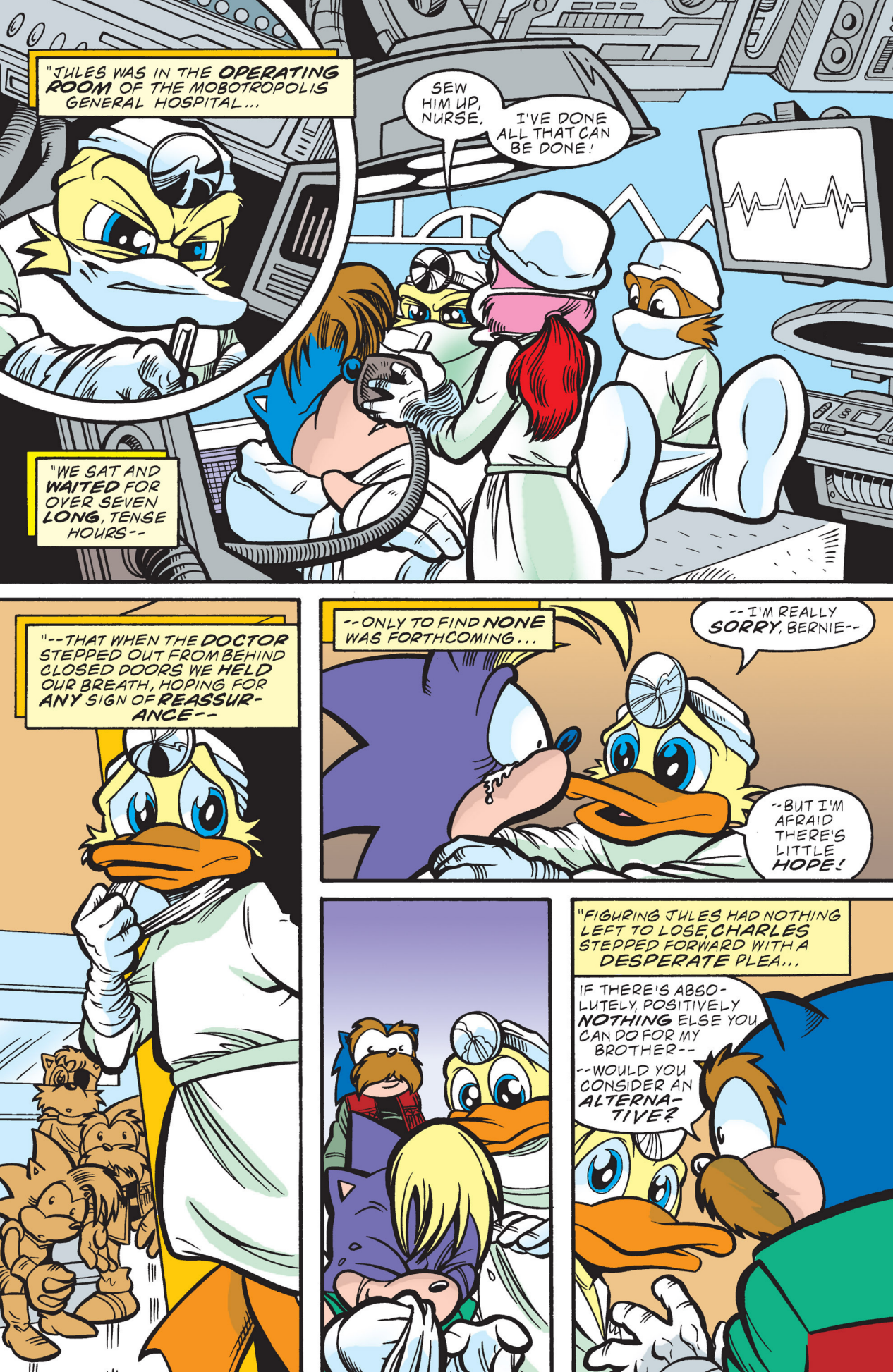

"I NEARLY LOST IT THEN AND THERE FIGHTING MY INSTINCTS TO GO COMFORT MY HUSBAND--

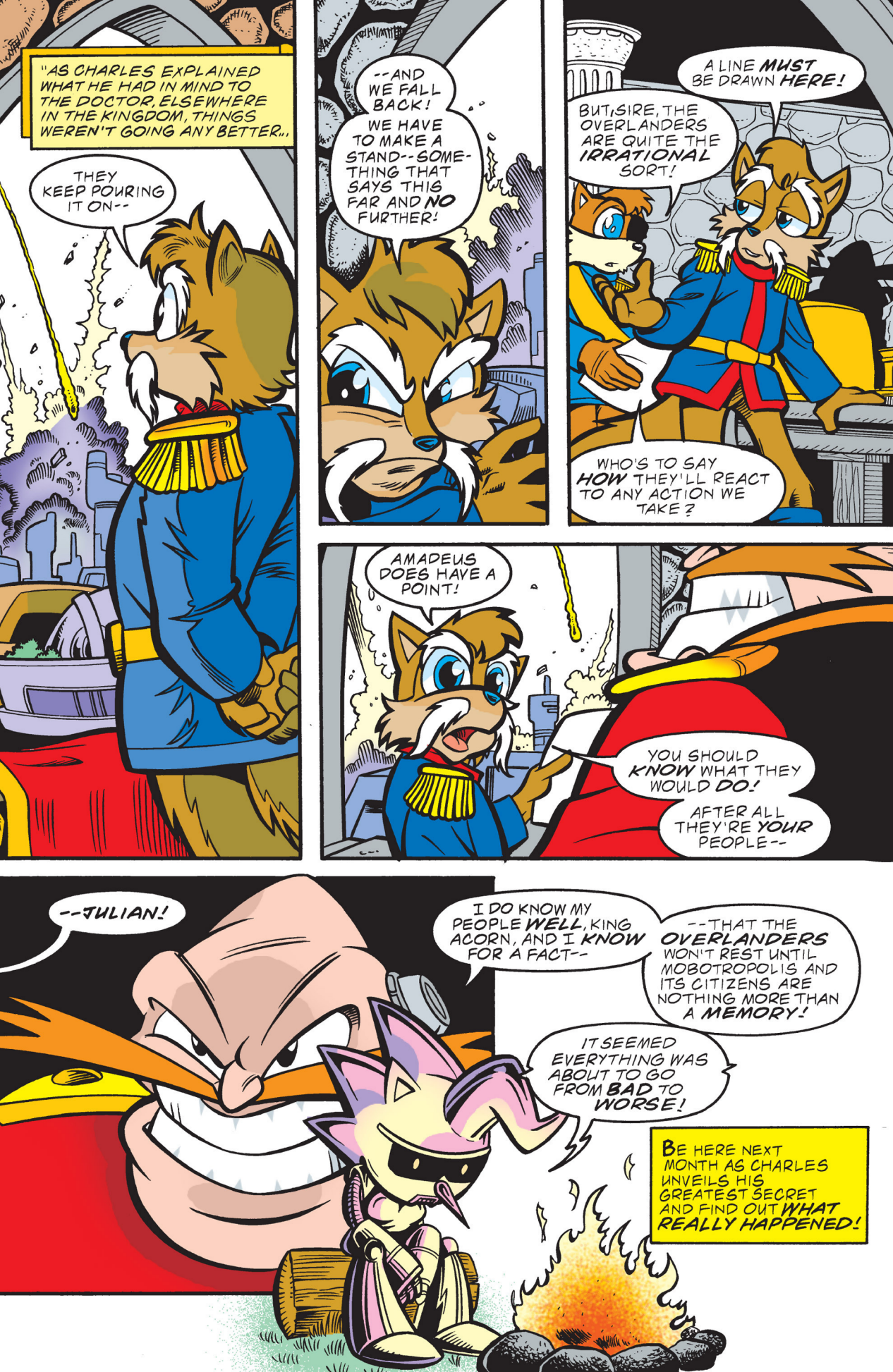
"--BUT UPON HEARING A SOUND FROM THE ROOFTOP ABOVE, MY ANGER GOT THE BETTER OF ME!"
PREPARE TO DIE, HEDGEHOG!
OH, YEAH, GRUESOME?


ZZIAAT!
HAVE A TASTE OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE!


"EVEN THOUGH I HAD LOST OTHER RELATIVES AND FRIENDS DURING THE WAR, NOTHING SEEMED AS PERSONAL AS EVERYTHING DID AT THAT MOMENT.
"MY RAGE LASTED ONLY A MOMENT AS MY PRIMARY CONCERN FOCUSED BACK UPON MY HUSBAND...
HE'S STILL BREATHING BUT WE NEED SOMETHING TO STOP THE BLEEDING!
I HAVE A MEDI-KIT IN MY BACK-PACK!
WHILE YOU BANDAGE JULES--
--I'LL GET A STRETCHER READY FOR US TO CARRY HIM!
I'VE GOT JULES STABILIZED, BERNIE, BUT HE'S GOING TO NEED A LOT MORE THAN WHAT I CAN DO!
I'M JUST ABOUT SET, CHARLES!
THERE! LET'S GET JULES ON AND AWAY FROM HERE!
"WE WERE ABLE TO EVADE THE OVERLANDER PATROLS AS WE MADE OUR WAY OUT OF THE CITY TO THE BADLANDS BEYOND...
HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP, BERNIE?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, CHARLES! I'M DOING FINE!
GOOD--
--CAUSE THERE'S A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES!
4


HERE! GIVE HIM TO ME!
EASY WITH THAT, AMEDEUS! IT'S A MIRACLE WE'VE GOTTEN HIM THIS FAR!
SHERMAN, YOU MANGY OLD COOT!
PUT THE PEDAL TO THE METAL AND GET US BACK TO MOBOTROPOLIS!
AS SOON AS YOU SHUT THE HATCH--
SLAM
--WE'RE ROLLING!
VROOOOOOMM
"SHERMAN BROKE EVERY SPEED RECORD GETTING US BACK TO THE KINGDOM. NO MATTER THE OBSTACLE HE FOUND A WAY--
--WHILE THE REST OF US TENDED TO JULES...
"THOUGH IT SEEMED LIKE FOREVER, WITHIN THE HOUR--
YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT, PARTNER!
WE JUST PASSED THE CITY LIMITS!


"JULES WAS IN THE OPERATING ROOM OF THE MOBOTROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL...
SEW HIM UP, NURSE.
I'VE DONE ALL THAT CAN BE DONE!
"WE SAT AND WAITED FOR OVER SEVEN LONG, TENSE HOURS--
"--THAT WHEN THE DOCTOR STEPPED OUT FROM BEHIND CLOSED DOORS WE HELD OUR BREATH, HOPING FOR ANY SIGN OF REASSURANCE--
--ONLY TO FIND NONE WAS FORTHCOMING...
--I'M REALLY SORRY, BERNIE--
--BUT I'M AFRAID THERE'S LITTLE HOPE!
"FIGURING JULES HAD NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE, CHARLES STEPPED FORWARD WITH A DESPERATE PLEA...
IF THERE'S ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY NOTHING ELSE YOU CAN DO FOR MY BROTHER--
--WOULD YOU CONSIDER AN ALTERNATIVE?


"AS CHARLES EXPLAINED WHAT HE HAD IN MIND TO THE DOCTOR, ELSEWHERE IN THE KINGDOM, THINGS WEREN'T GOING ANY BETTER..."
THEY KEEP POURING IT ON--
--AND WE FALL BACK! WE HAVE TO MAKE A STAND--SOMETHING THAT SAYS THIS FAR AND NO FURTHER!
A LINE MUST BE DRAWN HERE!
BUT, SIRE, THE OVERLANDERS ARE QUITE THE IRRATIONAL SORT!
WHO'S TO SAY HOW THEY'LL REACT TO ANY ACTION WE TAKE?
AMADEUS DOES HAVE A POINT!
YOU SHOULD KNOW WHAT THEY WOULD DO!
AFTER ALL THEY'RE YOUR PEOPLE--
--JULIAN!
I DO KNOW MY PEOPLE WELL, KING ACORN, AND I KNOW FOR A FACT--
--THAT THE OVERLANDERS WON'T REST UNTIL MOBOTROPOLIS AND ITS CITIZENS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN A MEMORY!
IT SEEMED EVERYTHING WAS ABOUT TO GO FROM BAD TO WORSE!
BE HERE NEXT MONTH AS CHARLES UNVEILS HIS GREATEST SECRET AND FIND OUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED!